

Message Text

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ACTION ORM-02

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 IO-13 ISO-00 DHA-02 SSO-00 /028 W
-----130948Z 046259 /17

O R 130925Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4600
INFO AMEMBASSY KIGALI
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L KHARTOUM 1957

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OTRA, SREF, SU
SUBJECT: METSON VISIT TO SUDAN

REF: KHARTOUM 1949

1. SINCE REFTEL HAS BEEN SENT, CHARGE HAS MET WITH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES AND DISCUSSED VISIT AGAIN WITH MINSTATE FONAFFS DENG. CLEARLY THERE NO PROBLEM WITH METSON VISITING KHARTOUM, ALTHOUGH NOT YET CLEAR WITH WHOM HE WILL MEET ON SUDANGOV SIDE. PROBLEM IS THAT MOST KNOWLEDGE AND ACTION RESPONSIBILITY, IN FACT, IS WITHIN UNHCR. COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES IS NOT RPT NOT PARTICULARLY ENLIGHTENING AND RELUCTANT TO DISCUSS ISSUES BEYOND GENERALITIES. HIS IMMEDIATE SUPERIOR IS MINISTER INTERIOR BUT WE DO NOT KNOW WHETHER HE NORMALLY BECOMES DEEPLY INVOLVED IN REFUGEE MATTERS. DOUBT THERE MUCH EXPERTISE IN FOREIGN MINISTRY. DENG IS CONSIDERING WHICH OFFICIALS METSON SHOULD SEE, AND WE HAVE SUGGESTED MININT AND APPROPRIATE FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL. MOST USEFUL AND ENLIGHTENING DISCUSSIONS PROBABLY WILL BE WITH UNHCR REP KOZLOWSKI.

2. RE VISITS TO SOUTHERN AND EASTERN SUDAN, AS
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INDICATED REFTEL, THERE MAY BE PROBLEMS. COMMISSIONER OF REFUGEES SAID HE WOULD NOT RPT NOT WANT METSON TO VISIT SOUTH. HE SAID SUDANGOV DOES NOT RPT NOT OFFICIALLY RECOGNIZE PRESENCE OF UGANDAN REFUGEES IN COUNTRY, WHICH IN ANY CASE, HE ARGUED, ARE FEW IN NUMBER. AS DEPARTMENT AWARE FROM OUR PREVIOUS REPORTING THIS SUBJECT, PRESENCE OF UGANDAN REFUGEES AND HOW THEY SHOULD BE HANDLED

IS POLITICALLY SENSITIVE MATTER FOR SUDANGOV.

3. COMMISSIONER SAID HE WOULD NOT MIND IF METSON VISITED ETHIOPIAN REFUGEE CAMPS IN EASTERN SUDAN, BUT LOGISTICS MAY BE PROBLEM. FYI EMBASSY ADDIS ABABA REPORTS THAT FIGHTING IS UNDERWAY NEAR BORDER AS GOVERNMENT FORCES ATTEMPT RETAKE TOWNS RECENTLY CAPTURED BY REBEL ELEMENTS. THUS SUDANGOV MAY BE SENSITIVE TO TRAVEL IN BORDER REGION NOW. END FYI.

4. COMMENT AND ACTION REQUESTED: REALIZE THAT LACK OF CLEAR INFO RE TRAVEL OUTSIDE KHARTOUM WILL COMPLICATE PLANNING FOR METSON VISIT. HOPE, HOWEVER, THAT BASED ON INFO AVAILABLE METSON CAN MAKE FIRM TRAVEL PLANS AND ADVISE US RE ETA SO WE CAN ARRANGE KHARTOUM APPOINTMENTS AT LEAST.
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Message Attributes

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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 13-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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